

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection of the claims is incomplete and erroneous because the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of unpatentability for at least dependent claims 10-15, 20, 21, 27 and 30.

Dependent base claim 8 is rejected over the combination of Beeteson, Ito and Tew. However, its dependent claims 10-15 are rejected over different combinations of references that do not include the base combination of the base rejection. This clearly indicates that no prima facie case of unpatentability has been established for at least claims 10-15.

Dependent base claims 3 and 18 are rejected over the combination of Beeteson and Ito. However, their dependent claims 20, 21, 27 and 30 are rejected over a different combination of references that does not include the base combination of the base rejection. This clearly indicates that no prima facie case of unpatentability has been established for at least claims 20-21, 27 and 30.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the Office Action is incomplete and erroneous. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions in the telephone conversation with the Examiner, Applicant submits that it is sufficiently responsive that the reply merely point out these errors while not discussing the merits of remaining rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/492,300

ATTY DOCKET NO.: Q55891

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

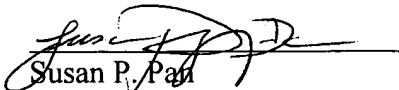
Respectfully submitted,

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